



**SOUTH ASIA:** A prolonged break in the monsoon brought unseasonable dryness to much of central and southern India, the exception being a pocket of locally heavy rain (100 mm or greater) over India's southern tip. Dry weather over the past 3 to 4 weeks has helped to deplete soil moisture reserves from Gujarat to southern Andhra Pradesh, limiting moisture available to grains, oilseeds, cotton, and sugarcane. Highs in the upper 30's degrees C have exacerbated the situation and increased the potential for stress. However, the dryness in central India's soybean belt (western Madhya Pradesh and environs) was generally beneficial following recent weeks of wetness. Rainfall was also spotty across northern India and neighboring locations in Pakistan, with isolated amounts exceeding 25 mm. In contrast, locally heavy rain (50-200 mm or more) doused rice areas of eastern India and Bangladesh, resulting in locally severe flooding.